THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) Government is aware of reports in the media about certain health problems in the two villages of Jharjani and Tamloa in the vicinity of Rajasthan Atomic Power Station (RAPS).

(b) Department of Atomic Energy and expert teams of Medical Officers deputed by Rajasthan Government have independently looked into the details.

(c) The radioactivity releases into the environment through the air and water routes from RAPS have been very low and well below the limits stipulated by Atomic Energy Regulatory Board. These limits are in line with the recommendations of the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP). An Environmental Survey Laboratory (ESL) has been operating at RAPS for the past nineteen years. Radiation surveys and collection and analysis of samples of water, soil, food, air and various other products have been systematically carried out in the area around RAPS to assure environmental safety. The Health problems reported in some villages around RAPS have not been evident in the plant workers at RAPS or their families living in the adjacent township. Surveys conducted by expert teams of Medical Officers deputed by Rajasthan Government have indicated that the health deficiencies observed were not attributable to rediation induced diseases. Thus scientific evidence indicates that there is no link between operation of I RAPS and reported health effects in some villages.

Use of Ajino Moto

1177. SHRI G.G. SWELL : Will the Minister of HELATH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the food flavour 'Ajino Moto' is widely used in India;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Ajino Moto causes brain damage and has been banned in many countries ; and

(c) if so, whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for imposing a ban on its use in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) Use of Mono Sodium Glutamate (commonly known as Ajino Moto) is permitted as a flavouring agent in an item of food provided the total glutamate content of the ready-to-serve food does not exceed 1%. It is not permitted to be added to any food for use by the infant below 12 months.

(b) The Joint Expert Committee on Food Addictives (JECFA) an expert body constituted by FAO/WHO, has opined that use of this chemical at the level necessary to achieve the desired technological effect and from their acceptable background in food do not represent a hazard to health.

(c) In view of (a) & (b) above, no such ban is contemplated under the provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954.

Anti AIDS compound by Glaxo

1178. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s. Glaxo Laboratories have developed an anti-AIDS compound ; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) M/s. Glaxo Laboratory has not applied to the Government for registration or clinical trial of any anti-AIDS compound.

(b) Does not arise.

Siddha system of Medicine

1179. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Siddha System of medicine is in a bad shape due to lack of adequate research and Governmental patronage; and

(b) if so, what steps the Central Council of Research in Siddha and Ayurveda propose to take to place the Siddha System of medcine on a sound footing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA : (a) and (b) No Sir. however a great deal still remains to be done.

Black fever

1180. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that black fever recently broke out in several parts of the country ; and

(b) if so, the total number of deaths during the current year till October, 1991 and details of the measures taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) Black Fever or Kala-azar has not broken out in several parts of the country. Kala-azar is endemic only in the States of Bihar and West Bengal.

(b) The total number of deaths due to Black Fever (Kala-azar) as reported is as under:—

Year	Deaths
1990	606
1991 (upto Aug. 1991)	437

The specific measures being undertaken by the Government to contain the spread of this disease :

—Systematic case detection and treatment of all patients with drugs like Sodium Stibo Gluconate, Pentamidine Isotheionate, etc.

—Interruption of transmission through vector control by undertaking residual insecticidal spraying in affected areas with two rounds of DDT.

—Improvement of general sanitation in and around the house to eliminate breeding ground or sandflow the the vector for Kala-azar.

—Intensification of health education activities for disease prevention.

—Training of medical and para-medical personnel in the diagnosis and treatment of Kala-azar cases.

Death in mental hospital Bombay

1181. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN :
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE oe pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of patients have died since 1988 in mental hospitals in Bombay ; and

(b) whether Government have taken any action on the recommendations made in the "Mahajan Committee' Report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) The number of deaths in Mental Hospital, Thane, Bombay since 1988 is 366.

(b) The Maharasthra State Government have intimated that they have started implementing most of the recommendations of the MAHAJAN COMMITTEE in right earnest.

CGHS Dispensaries in uncovered areas of Ghaziabad city and trans-Hindon areas

1182. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of Central Government employees are residing in Ghaziabad city and trans-Hindon area;

(b) whether it is also a fact that those areas are not fully covered by the CGHS;

(c) whether Government have taken any decision to open a CGHS Dispensary for the uncovered areas there;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof, and by when the decision is likely to be implemented in this regard; and

(e) if the reply to part (d) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Due to financial constraints, it is not possible to open any new dispensary this year.

Services provided by Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital

1183. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of beds capacity in Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital in New Delhi.

(b) what are the details of services in specialities and super specialities provided by the Hospital;